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usually found in small flocks. The greater part of the specimens I referred to *P. a. atricapillus*, tho they do not agree closely with eastern specimens. The greater part of them are intermediates, verging toward the western form, *septentrionalis*, and in many cases it is difficult to decide where they belong. About eighty per cent can be referred to the eastern variety, and this is apparently the dominant breeding bird.

68. ***Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis***. Long-tailed Chickadee. Several birds of this variety were taken, and they appear to be of regular occurrence in this vicinity, as mentioned in the notes under the preceding variety. Ninety skins were made of the two varieties.

69. ***Regulus calendula calendula***. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. On several mornings I noticed one or two of these birds feeding in some willows near the tent, and one immature female was taken September 18, 1908. None were taken during the preceding year.

70. ***Hylocichla mustelina***. Wood Thrush. One taken September 20, 1907, was the only one seen. The rest had already gone south in the fall migration.

71. ***Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola***. Willow Thrush. Two of these birds were taken, one September 12, and one September 16, 1908. They were found in rather open thickets, one being taken on the side-hill, and the other in the ravine near camp. I have one other specimen in my collection, taken September 28, 1907, in this same locality, and these three constitute the only records for the state to my knowledge. I have been confidently expecting to secure them sooner or later, however, as they have been taken so much further east.

72. ***Hylocichla ustulata swainsonii***. Olive-backed Thrush. A single one taken September 17, 1908, was the only one seen. Thrushes, other than robins, were rare during both years, and only a few were taken.

73. ***Planesticus migratorius migratorius***. American Robin. During 1907 robins were more abundant than the succeeding year, and were found in the thickets on the hillsides, and along the creeks. Some of those taken were still in the spotted juvenile plumage, but most of them had almost completed the molt to the adult plumage, some of the birds showing a full winter dress. All those taken the second year were much more advanced in molt, and in better condition than the year previous.

74. ***Sialia sialis sialis***. Bluebird. Common in flocks of from six to a dozen along the country roads. These flocks mark family groups, and frequently contained spotted individuals and others just molting out of the juvenile plumage. Twenty-five specimens were taken.

*Denver, Colorado.*

## CLIFF CLIMBING FOR PRAIRIE FALCON EGGS

By GEORGE RICHARDS

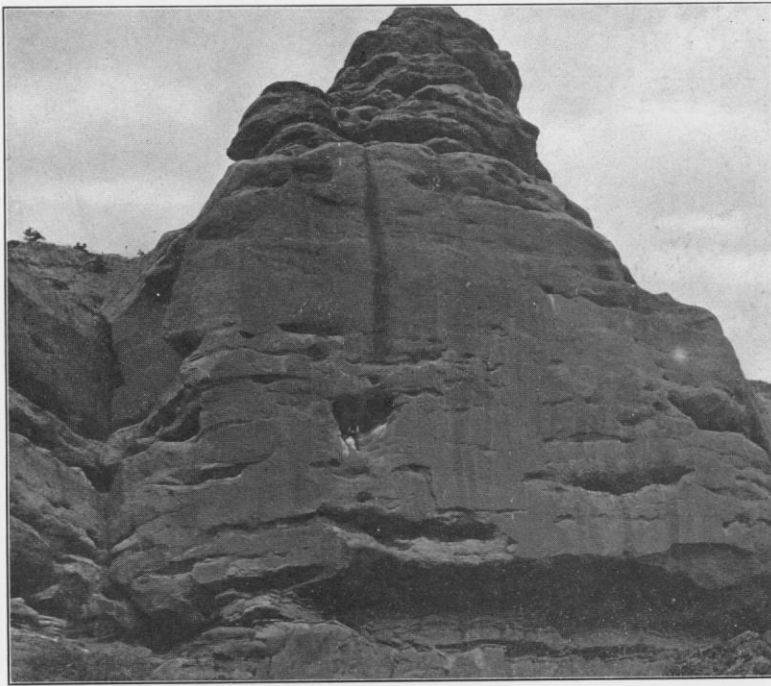
WITH TWO PHOTOS

CLIFF climbing can hardly be termed a sport in spite of its many thrills and pleasures. This is especially true when the climbers are amateurs and equipment limited. Even when a rare or interesting set of eggs leads one to make the attempt, his nerve suffers a queer sensation when he looks down the one

hundred feet of sheer rock wall to the sharp-edged stones below, and thinks what would happen to him if he should make a slip.

Such were our feelings when we stood peering over the side of a red sandstone cliff nearly one hundred feet in high and slanting in near the base. This cliff is situated among the foothills about twenty miles to the southwest of Denver, at the canyon known as Deer Creek. One of the party, Mr. Harold Durand, had noticed that for two years before, a pair of Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) nested there; so, on this day, May 2, 1909, we resolved to explore the face of the cliff.

A little more than a third of the hight from the bottom was a cave-like opening about six feet high, four wide, and three back. Here the falcon had located her nest, soon to be disturbed by this party of egg seekers, with Mr. Durand as climber to represent them.



NESTING SITE OF PRAIRIE FALCON NEAR LITTLETON, COLORADO

As the rope went over the side of the cliff Mrs. Falcon could stand the excitement no longer and left the cliff protesting loudly. On looking over the edge the climber decided that he would rather climb up from the bottom than risk going over the top. Loops were tied in the rope about every ten feet so that he might rest. As he drew up opposite the opening, the cheering word came down to us, "five eggs." After a few pictures had been taken from below, the camera was sent up to the man in the cave for the photographing of the eggs. When this had been performed the camera returned and up went the egg box, each of the party below sending up some special directions, by wireless, as to the packing of the eggs. Now in order to correctly identify the eggs it was necessary to collect either or both of the birds. We had one shell left, and held our breath as Mrs. Falcon sailed over within range. The gun crackt. A piercing scream came from the bird.

She descended involuntarily to the earth. A shout of joy arose from every member to celebrate the end of a perilous but successful day. The eggs were well advanced in incubation; the average measurement was 2.03 inches. The reader's attention is called to the similarity of this nest to that described by Mr. Peabody in the November number of the CONDOR, 1907.

*Littleton, Colorado.*



NEST AND EGGS OF PRAIRIE FALCON, IN RECESS IN FACE OF SANDSTONE CLIFF

### NESTING NOTES ON THE LUCY WARBLER

By M. FRENCH GILMAN

THIS trim little gray warbler with chestnut rump and crown patch (*Vermivora luciae*), might properly be termed the Mesquite Warbler, as his favorite shelter, home and playground seem to be furnished largely by the mesquite, and insects about the bloom of the tree loom large on his daily menu. It is very numerous about the mesquite groves and other growth along the Gila river bottom and seems to be the only warbler nesting in this locality.

The few notes here presented were made during the seasons of 1908 and 1909 at points along the Gila river in Arizona. Observations were made at Blackwater, 1362 feet elevation; Sacaton, 1275 feet; and Agua Caliente, 380 feet elevation. At the latter point, about 100 miles down the Gila river from Sacaton, I spent two weeks last April and found the Warblers more plentiful than at the other places mentioned.